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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/598,477	06/22/2000	Takayuki Nyu	NE-1005-US/KM	5516

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EXAMINER

TSEGAYE, SABA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2662

DATE MAILED: 01/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed on 11/07/05. Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 113 and 16-24 are allowed. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bastiani et al. (US 6,609,167) in view of Cote et al (US 5,870,556).

Bastiani discloses a host and device serial communication protocols and communication packet formats. Further, Bastiani discloses that the normal idle condition for the device receiver is looking for a packet from the host (claimed setting a state machine in a receive mode). A slave device sensing the end of the packet and wishing to send a response must wait 20 ns minimum (turnaround time) before a transmission. When a response is required from the device the line is turned around to the host and transmission initiated. The turnaround time is a time to allow the line to settle and to allow the host to enable its receiver (column 24, lines 19-27) column 42, lines 31-42). Further, Bastiani discloses that the ASP protocol uses a byte count to determine the end of the packet (as in claim 15) (column 24, lines 49-57).

However, Bastiani fails to disclose that the turnaround time is based upon the exchange of signals between the network node and remote node.

Cote teaches that each message includes timestamp information that is used to calculate components of a round-trip time. The turnaround time is determined by taking the difference

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between the **time** indicated by the reply-sent indicator and the time indicated by the request-received indicator (column 7 lines 5-16).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bastiani's system to determine the turnaround time between nodes based upon the exchange of signals between the network node and the remote node, as taught by Cote. The suggestion/motivation is that Bastiani discloses that the turnaround time (20 ns) is a time to allow the line to settle and to allow the host to enable its receiver, therefore modifying the 20 ns of turnaround time to a turnaround time base upon the exchange of signals would provide more accurate and efficient system and subsequent collisions are avoided.

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

3. Claims 1-13 and 16-24 are allowed.

#### *Response to Arguments*

4. Applicant's arguments filed 11/07/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues (Remarks, page 12) that "none of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention including: 1) setting a state machine in an Idle mode for an interval that corresponds to a turnaround time for signals exchanged between a network node and a remote node (claim 14); and 2) setting a state machine in an Idle mode for an interval that corresponds to an incremented time count value that is based upon a start timing for a child notify single transmitted from a node to a bus and an end timing for apparent notify signal received by the node from the bus (claim 15)". Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant contention. Bastiani discloses in Fig. 3, exchanging signals between a host and a remote device.

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The device responding to the packet with a handshake. A slave device (the remote node) sensing the end of the packet and wishing to send a response **must wait predetermined turnaround time (20 ns minimum)** before a transmission (an idle mode). The turnaround time is a time to allow the line to settle and to allow the host to enable its receiver. However, Bastiani fails to describe how the **turnaround time is determined**. In, Cote the turnaround time is determined by calculating components of a **round-trip time**. Furthermore, monitor software is able to determine a **request time** and a **turnaround time** by taking the difference between the time indicated by the reply-sent indicator and the time indicated by the request-received indicator. The combination of Bastiani and Cote reference is proper and therefore, the rejection is maintained.

### *Conclusion*

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

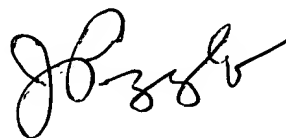
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saba Tsegaye whose telephone number is (571) 272-3091. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00), First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on (571) 272-3088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ST  
January 9, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Pezzlo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**JOHN PEZZLO**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**